

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 2, 3 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4-11 and 13-18 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 18 are amended to correct the typographical errors noted in the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to Claims 1 and 18 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,973,515 (hereinafter DeMand), and Claims 2 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMand in view of various secondary references.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 2 and 3, which have been cancelled. In view of the Official Action's indication of allowability of Claim 3, amended Claim 1 is allowable. Furthermore, Claims 5-7 are also allowable by virtue of their dependency on Claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DeMand, and of Claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeMand in view of various secondary references, is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,432,511. However, Claim 12 is now cancelled.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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